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# Nominee Wants Hearing Opened

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Washington — CIA counsel Stanley Sporkin said yesterday he would prefer an open hearing on his nomination for a federal judgeship rather than the closed meeting that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Strom Thurmond has ordered to protect classified documents.

In a telephone interview, Sporkin said he told several senators that he did not ask for the closed hearing and that he wants to be able to publicly refute any allegations made against him.

Newsday reported yesterday that opponents of Sporkin contend that he interfered with an FBI investigation of a leak of classified CIA documents to "Middle East interests," by alerting a CIA official suspected in the leak. Sources said the allegations also concern whether Sporkin was involved in the leak.

Sporkin was nominated to a seat on the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., 16 months ago, but he has yet to have a confirmation hearing, because of opposition from conservative Republican senators.

Aides to some Democrats on the committee said yesterday that the senators plan to propose that the hearing be open until it becomes absolutely necessary to discuss classified documents.

Mark Goodin, a spokesman for Thurmond (R-S.C.), said the committee chairman is willing to see if there are alternatives to a closed hearing. But, he said, Thurmond insists that the "sanctity of the documents" be protected.

Sporkin strongly denied yesterday that he was involved with a leak of classified information from the CIA and said he did not even know the person suspected of the leak at that time.

Sporkin said he was not even aware of the first FBI investigation of the leak, a probe that he said took place in early 1983. "It was five or six months later, when the investigation was reopened that I got involved," Sporkin said that his only role in the affair was to advise the senior CIA official suspected of the leak to get a lawyer. He said he was instructed to do that, but declined to say by whom. "It was part of my general role at the agency. I was doing my job," he said. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21.